



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

20 MAY 2022

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## (U) CALIFORNIA

### (U) Costa Mesa – Former UCLA Student Pleads Guilty to Felony Charge for 6 Jan Capitol Breach

(U) A California man pleaded guilty yesterday to a felony charge for his actions during the breach of the US Capitol on 6 January 2021. Christian Alexander Secor of Costa Mesa climbed the scaffolding to the Upper West Terrace of the Capitol building and spent almost 45 minutes in the building where he assisted the rioters inside of the Capitol in opening the East Rotunda doors and sat in the Vice President's seat on the Senate dais. Secor was a UCLA student who founded "America First Bruins," a Republican organization that supported the capitol riot. In social media posts, Secor self-identifies as a "fascist" who believes America should be a "whites-only nation." The FBI further detailed that Secor often goes by the nickname "Scuffed Elliot Roger," a reference to the 2014 Isla Vista mass murderer. SOURCE: 19 May 2022, [CBS News](#)

### (U) San Diego – Scientists Plead Guilty to Forwarding Confidential mRNA Vaccine Research to China

(U) Chenyan Wu and Lianchun Chen, a married couple who worked as research scientists for a major American pharmaceutical company, pleaded guilty in federal court Wednesday to criminal charges stemming from their efforts to gather confidential mRNA research from that company to advance the husband's competing laboratory research in China. From 2013-2018 Chen repeatedly accessed confidential DNA and mRNA Sequencing information from her employer and provided them to her husband. In 2021, Wu attempted to move his lab back to the US and was intercepted at customs with suitcases containing undeclared hazardous chemical and biological samples and equipment. SOURCE: 19 May 2022, [CA DOJ](#)

## (U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

### (U) California – Multiple Swimmers Thwarted from Entering the US

(U) Imperial Beach – San Diego Sector Border Patrol encountered multiple swimmers Monday morning attempting to illegally enter the US. Agents responded to reports of a group of people swimming northbound from the international boundary and spotted 11 subjects in the water. The agents made multiple attempts to communicate with the swimmers and have them exit the ocean. Seven of the subjects immediately returned to Mexico while four continued northbound, exited the ocean and ran into the Border Field Park where they were apprehended. SOURCE: 19 May 2022, [US CBP](#)

### (U) Texas – Former Gulf Cartel Leader Extradited for Drug Trafficking Violations

(U) Beaumont – A Mexican national has been extradited to the US to face drug trafficking violations in Texas. Mario Cardenas-Guillen of Matamoros, Mexico, was indicted by a federal grand jury in 2012 and charged with conspiracy with intent to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine. Cardenas-Guillen was surrendered to the US on May 17, 2022. From 200-2012, Cardenas-Guillen is alleged to have conspired with others to possess more than five-kilograms of cocaine, with intent to distribute. SOURCE: 19 May 2022, [US DOJ](#)

## UNCLASSIFIED

### (U) NATIONAL

#### **(U) Connecticut – Teen, Grandfather Accused of Manufacturing 'Ghost Gun' AR-15 Rifles**

(U) East Hampton – A teenager and his grandfather were arrested for manufacturing AR-15 assault rifles after Police were contacted by a concerned citizen. During the investigation, authorities said they identified the suspects as Clayton Hobby, 18, and his grandfather, Kerry Schunk, 64. While at the scene, officers said they found and seized multiple "ghost gun" AR-15 rifles in various stages of assembly, including one that was converted to fire fully automatic. Investigators also found three "ghost gun" polymer handguns, 15 high-capacity magazines, and 1,000 rounds of ammunition.

SOURCE: 17 May 2022, [NBC Connecticut](#)

#### **(U) District of Columbia – DHS Orders Federal Agencies to Patch VMware Bugs Within 5 Days**

(U) Washington – CISA released a Cybersecurity Advisory (CSA) to warn organizations that malicious cyber actors, likely advanced persistent threat (APT) actors, are exploiting vulnerabilities in certain versions of VMware. Exploiting these vulnerabilities permits malicious actors to trigger a server-side template injection attacks. VMware released updates for the vulnerabilities on 6 April, but malicious cyber actors were able to reverse engineer the updates to develop an exploit within 48 hours and quickly began exploiting the disclosed vulnerabilities in unpatched devices. CISA was made aware of this exploit a week later. CISA determined that all these security flaws pose an unacceptable risk to federal agencies and has ordered them to take emergency action to patch them by 23 May.

SOURCE: 18 May 2022, [CISA](#)

#### **(U) Illinois – 2 Killed, 8 Wounded in Mass Shooting Outside a Chicago McDonald's**

(U) Chicago – A suspect is in custody after two people were killed and eight others wounded in a mass shooting in downtown Chicago late Thursday night. One of the eatery's windows was shattered during the shooting. Police also confirmed a handgun was recovered at the scene. Authorities didn't immediately release the names and ages of the victims or the conditions of the wounded, or details about the shooting. An investigation is underway.

SOURCE: 20 May 2022, [CBS News](#)

#### **(U) Texas – Almost 2 million Texans Affected by Texas Department of Insurance Data Breach**

(U) Dallas – A massive security breach at the Texas Department of Insurance leaked the personal information of almost 2 million Texans for nearly three years, according to a state audit released last week. The department said the personal information of 1.8 million workers who have filed compensation claims, including Social Security numbers, addresses, dates of birth, phone numbers and information about workers' injuries was accessible online to members of the public from March 2019 to January 2022. Though personal information was compromised, the agency now says there's no reason to believe the data was used.

SOURCE: 17 May 2022, [KXAN](#)

### (U) INTERNATIONAL

#### **(U) Burkina Faso – Jihadist Attack Kills 11 Soldiers**

(U) Ouagadougou – Eleven soldiers were killed and nearly two dozen injured by jihadis targeting a military base in eastern Burkina Faso. Injured soldiers have been taken to hospital and aerial support killed 15 attackers trying to flee after Thursday's attack in Madjoari in Kompienga province. The attacks were the latest in escalating violence in the region. Last week nearly 60 people, including civilians and security forces, were killed in violence targeting villages in four regions across the country in 72 hours.

SOURCE: 20 May 2022, [Associated Press](#)

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### **(U) Canada – Country Bans China’s Huawei Technologies from 5G Networks**

(U) Toronto – Wireless carriers in Canada won’t be allowed to install Huawei equipment in their high-speed 5G networks, the Canadian government said Thursday, joining allies in banning the giant Chinese technology company. Canada’s ban also includes ZTE Corp., one of China’s biggest tech companies and one that is state-owned. Canada had been the only member of the Five Eyes intelligence-pooling alliance not to bar or restrict use of equipment from Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. in its 5G networks. The US and the other members, Britain, Australia, and New Zealand previously banned Huawei.

SOURCE: 19 May 2022, [ABC News](#)

### **(U) Italy – Pro-Russian Hackers Attack Institutional Websites**

(U) Rome – Pro-Russian hackers attacked the websites of several Italian institutions and government ministries, denying access the websites of the Italian foreign ministry and its national magistrates association. According to officials, the attack was launched at around 2000 GMT on Thursday by the hacker group "Killnet." A similar attack took place on 11 May, and last weekend police said they had thwarted a cyber-assault on the latter stages of the Eurovision Song Contest in Turin which ended on Saturday with the victory of Ukraine's entry. The police attributed both attacks to the Killnet group and its affiliate Legion.

SOURCE: 20 May 2022, [Reuters](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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